A new species of *Aequatorium* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) from Peru

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**Abstract**

*Aequatorium pascoense* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) a new species is described from Peru with opposite leaves and quadrangular branches, with an illustration and a key to the opposite-leaved species of *Aequatorium*.

**Resumen**

*Aequatorium pascoense* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) una especie nueva con hojas opuestas y tallos quadrangulares es descrita e ilustrada para el Perú, se presenta una clave par las especies de *Aequatorium* con hojas opuestas.

*Aequatorium pascoense H. Beltrán & H. Rob., sp. nov.*

**Type**: PERU, Dpto. Pasco. Prov. Oxpampa. Rail to summit of Cordillera Yanachaga, via Río San Daniel, 75°27’W, 10°23’S, 2600 m, 18 Jul 1984. Primary high montane forest; quite moist, heavy epiphyte and bryophyte load on trunks, shrub 4 m, flowers yellow, D. N. Smith & H. Botiger 7884 (Holotype: USM; isotypes: AMAZ, MO, US). – Fig. 1.

A speciebus congeneribus in foliis oppositis sessilibus base saepe subauriculatis distincta.

Shrub to small tree, laxly branched; stems strongly quadrangular, sulcate, glabrate, with nodes conspicuous. Leaves opposite, sessile; blades subcoriaceous, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, 15–21 cm long, 4.5–6.0 cm wide, slightly auriculate at base, slightly amplexicaul, sometimes slightly narrowed above base, margins with numerous minute denticulations, apex acute with a micro (mucronulate), upper surface pale green, glabrate, lower surface sparsely pilose with short, slightly branched hairs; venation pinnate, veins ca. 10 spreading oblique (at 80° angles), arching and anastomosing. Inflorescence terminal on branches, 10–14 cm high, 13–16
cm wide; peduncles 2–4 mm long. Heads campanulate, radiate, 6–7 mm high, 3–4 mm wide; subinvolution and calycular bracts 5 or 6, 5–6 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm wide, apex acute, margins scarious. Ray florets 2 or 3; corollas yellow, glabrate, tube ca. 3 mm long, limb elliptical, ca. 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, wider above, apex tridentate. Disc florets 3; corollas yellow, 6–7 mm long, glabrous, tube 3–4 mm long, throat narrow; campanulate, ca. 1.5 mm long, lobes narrowly oblong, ca. 2 mm long, with apex acute; anther collar ca. 0.4 mm long; thecae ca. 2 mm long; apical appendage 0.4–0.5 mm long and 0.2 mm wide; style branches stigmatic on whole inner surface, sometime depressed along middle, 1.8–2.0 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm wide, tips acute with short apical pencil of hairs. Achenes submature, ca 1.8 mm long, glabrous; pappus 6–7 mm long with bristles in 2 series.

Aequatorium pascoense is the third known member of the genus with consistent opposite leaves (Nordénstam 1997; Robinson & Cuatrecasas 1992). The other two species, A. limonense B. Nord. of Ecuador and A. cajamarcense H. Rob. & Cuatrec. of Peru both have distinct petioles.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

Key to the species of Aequatorium with opposite leaves.

1. Leaves petiolate; branches only slightly quadrangular.
   2. Leaf blades elliptical, 6–12 cm long, base obtuse ................. A. cajamarcense
   2. Leaf blades elliptical, 7–18 cm long, base cordate ................. A. limonense
1. Leaves sessile, often slightly auriculate, branches distinctly quadrangular ....
   ................................................................................ A. pascoense

Acknowledgement

We thank Marjorie Knowles of the Botany Department, U.S. National Museum for repositioning part of the illustration.

References


Fig. 1. *Aequatorium pascoense* H. Beltrán & H. Rob.


Drawn from D. N. Smith & Botteger 7584 (USM).